

there. But let's just don't water this down too far to make it where it doesn't mean anything. I mean we have too many of those things passed now where we just do it for a simple....I guess we might as well save our breath to cool our oatmeal, in other words, if we're going to do that. So let's not do that, let's make some substance here, as we pointed out yesterday, and keep something going here. Senator Coordsen and Senator Withem can come up with language and I think we can all agree upon it. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam Chair, members. As you well know, I've been outspoken on the issue of personal property taxes and the effects that they've had upon this state. One of the things that I think we should recognize in this intent language, if and when we can get to some modifications, is the aspect of the...the agricultural competition among Nebraska and its surrounding states. In LB 775, and the economic incentives and those kinds of things, we've recognized for the business community in this state the need to be competitive with economic situations that exist in our surrounding areas. We also have to recognize this same fact for agricultural products. I know that out in the areas of my...out in the areas that I represent, in southwest, south central Nebraska, there is a migration of livestock away from Nebraska because of the taxation policies. We have to recognize that we are not a political island that can tax indiscriminately and out of step with those that surround us. It puts us at a great disadvantage. And I believe in this intent language we should also direct the Department of Revenue to investigate the impact, compared to those states that border us. It's very important that we recognize that to be competitive we need to be more or less in harmony with the region, not just within our borders. And with that, I would like to see the intent language remain, but address some amendments that would be satisfactory to both our interest as a Legislature, and our interests as far as the urban areas go in this, and arrive at some direction to give the Department of Revenue in addressing this issue, especially the competitive situation that exists in agriculture beyond our borders. And I would, at this point, am going to vote red on the amendment to the amendment by Senator Withem and Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Coordsen.